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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/016,142	12/17/2001	Hirotooshi Kubo	492322002600	4143

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MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
1650 TYSONS BOULEVARD
SUITE 300
MCLEAN, VA 22102

EXAMINER	
LATTIN, CHRISTOPHER W	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2812	

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/016,142

Applicant(s)

KUBO ET AL.

Examiner

Christopher W Lattin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 January 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakashima (5,811,871, cited by applicant).

Nakashima et al. teach a method for manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising the steps of: forming a base region 30 of a first conducting type on a surface of a collector layer 4 of a second conducting type; forming a polysilicon base electrode layer 15 on a surface of the base region and forming an insulating film 31 on a surface of the base electrode layer; forming a trench 32 (see Fig. 41), which does not reach the collector layer, in the base region by creating an opening at a part of the base electrode layer and the insulating film and forming a sidewall 35 on an inside wall of the trench, thus forming a γ-shaped trench; forming a polysilicon layer 37 containing impurities for emitter diffusion inside the trench, forming an emitter region 38 by diffusing the impurities of the polysilicon layer; and forming a through hole on the insulating film so as to form a base electrode 41 which comes into contact with the base electrode layer 15 and at the same time forming an emitter electrode 41 which comes into contact with the polysilicon layer. See Figures 1-4, 30-43.

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Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshihara (5,789,285).

Yoshihara teaches a method for manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising the steps of: preparing a collector layer 63 of a first conducting type; forming a base electrode layer 43 made of polysilicon containing impurities of a second conducting type on a surface of the collector layer and forming an insulating film 54 on the surface of the base electrode layer; forming a trench 55 in the collector layer by creating an opening at a part of the base electrode layer and the insulating film and doping impurities of the second conducting type so that a doped region 84 is formed around the trench and in the base electrode layer; forming a sidewall 56 on an inside wall of the trench; forming a polysilicon layer 86 containing impurities for emitter diffusion inside the trench; diffusing the impurities of the second conducting type of the doped region for forming a base region 94 and, at the same time, diffusing the impurities of the polysilicon layer for forming an emitter region 93, and forming a through hole on the insulating film and forming a base electrode 51 which comes into contact with the base electrode layer and, at the same time, forming an emitter electrode 51 which comes into contact with the polysilicon layer, wherein the trench is formed as a γ -shaped trench. See Figures 2 and 3A-3K.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 12/29/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the base region was not formed prior to forming

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the base electrode. However, a base P- doped region 42 was implanted prior to forming the base electrode. Although the base region may not have been completed, region 42 represents the doped the surface of the base region as required by the language of claim 9. Therefore, the rejection with respect to this element was proper.

The argument that the trench formed in Nakashima is not gamma shaped also fails. Layer 35 is etched so as to leave a gamma shaped trench. Therefore, the rejection with respect to this element was proper.

Applicant further argues that Yoshihara teaches that polysilicon layer 43 is doped before the formation of the trench. As pointed out in the rejection, Yoshihara teaches doping which results in the formation of region 84. The fact that the electrode may be doped twice is of no matter as applicant claims that the base electrode is doped with impurities of a second conductive type. Therefore, the rejection with respect to this element was proper.


The argument that the trench formed in Yoshihara is not gamma shaped also fails. Layer 56 is etched so as to leave a gamma shaped trench. Therefore, the rejection with respect to this element was proper.

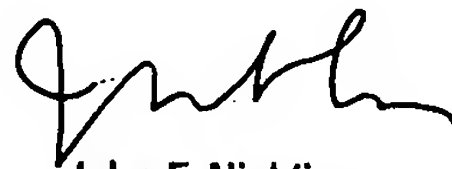
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher Lattin whose telephone number is (571) 272-1673. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Niebling, can be reached at (571) 272-1679. The fax number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

CWL 
March 25, 2004


John F. Niebling
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800